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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/295,864	04/21/1999	ADAM M. FELDSTEIN	MCS-003-98	7677

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EXAMINER

CHAMPAGNE, DONALD

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3622

DATE MAILED: 12/30/2002

12

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/295,864

Applicant(s)

FELDSTEIN ET AL.

Examiner

Donald L. Champagne

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 September 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 April 1999 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114*

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114.

### *Response to Arguments*

2. Applicant's arguments filed with amendment C on 12 September 2002 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The arguments are discussed at para. 7 and 8 below.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-9, 12-22, 25-28, 30 and 32 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Bull et al. in view of Gifford.
5. Bull et al. teaches (independent claims 1, 12 and 25) a computer-implemented method for displaying personalized information on a client system, a display device for rendering said information thereon, and a computer-readable medium containing the method, the method comprising: collecting data associated with a user ((col. 3 lines 36-37); processing the data to create unique user profiles (col. 31 lines 37-42); tracking at least a portion of the data and providing the user with a variety of search options (col. 3 line 63 to col. 4 line 6), which reads on performing estimation calculations to generate results and updated personal information using the client; and automatically communicating the results and the personalized and updated information to the user via the client (col. 3 lines 55-57). Bull et al. also teaches

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(independent claim 32) categorizing at least a portion of the query (the user's activity) as trackable data (col. 3 lines 34-35).

6. Bull et al. does not teach adjusting the results dynamically on the client. Gifford teaches adjusting the results dynamically on the client (col. 10 lines 35-48). Gifford teaches that this permits the user's most frequent requests to be answered from the local terminal (client, col. 10 lines 39-41). Because this would be understood by one of ordinary skill in the art to provide economy, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to add the teachings of Gifford to those of Bull et al.
7. Applicant argues (p. 5-6 and 8 of 13) that the prior art does not disclose, suggest or provide any motivation for adding the teachings of Gifford to those of Bull et al. The examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, the motivation is given by Gifford's teaching at col. 10 lines 39-41. One of ordinary skill in the art would understand that adjusting the results at the client would inherently eliminate delays in communicating with the server, among other economies.
8. Applicant argues (para. from the bottom of p. 6 to p. 8 of 13) that Gifford adjusts (filters) only the queries, and does not adjust the results as claimed. Gifford teaches (col. 10 line 37) applying data base updates, which reads on adjusting the results.
9. Bull et al. also teaches: (claims 2 and 13) an interactive computer environment (col. 4 line 15); (claims 3, 4, 16, 17 and 26) with communication over the WWW in HTML (col. 3 lines 58 and 52); (claims 5, 6, 14, 15, 18, 19 and 27) providing interactive graphical control interface options (col. 3 line 61 and col. 4 line 15); (claims 7 and 20) user characteristics including the user profiles (col. 4 lines 20-23); (claims 8 and 21) transmission of results by personalized e-mail (col. 4 line 12); (claims 9, 22 and 28) allowing real-time interaction with the information (col. 4 line 15); and (claim 30) using the classification profile to demographically and statistically perform target marketing (col. 14 lines 19-25).

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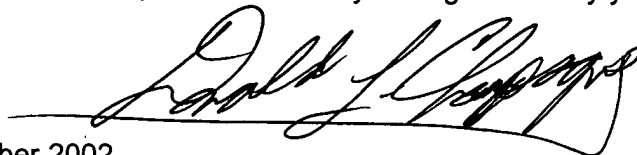
10. Claims 10, 11, 23, 24 and 29 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over the references cited above and further in view of Wong.
11. Neither Bull et al. nor Gifford teaches calculating projected automobile repair costs. Wong teaches calculating projected automobile costs. Because the combination would be very helpful to user's negotiating damage settlements with their auto insurance companies, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to combine the teachings of Wong with those of Bull et al. and Gifford.
12. None of the references teach computing projected prices of automobiles. Official Notice is taken (MPEP § 2144.03) that this limitation is common, and has obvious value to automobile buyers. The NADA blue book has been available on disc or CD for many years, and the Consumers Union has also offered an on-line auto price service for many years. It would therefore have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to add this limitation.
13. Claim 31 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over the references cited in para. 2 above and further in view of Chapin, Jr.
14. Neither Bull et al. nor Gifford teaches using automobile mileage to estimate maintenance schedules. Chapin, Jr. teaches (col. 2 lines 49-52) using automobile mileage to estimate maintenance schedules. Because Bull et al. and Gifford teach features that would enhance the simple system of Chapin, Jr., it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to add the teachings of Bull et al. and Gifford to those of Chapin, Jr. These enhanced features include a global reach for data over the Internet while still maintaining the advantages of local processing.

### **Conclusion**

15. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Donald L Champagne whose telephone number is 703-308-3331. The examiner can normally be reached from 6:30 AM to 5 PM ET, Monday to Thursday. The examiner can also be contacted by e-mail at [donald.champagne@uspto.gov](mailto:donald.champagne@uspto.gov), and *informal* fax communications may be sent directly to the examiner at 703-746-5536.

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16. The examiner's supervisor, Eric Stamber, can be reached on 703-305-8469. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9326 for regular official communications and 703-872-9327 for After Final official communications. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-306-5771.
17. **ABANDONMENT** – If examiner cannot by telephone verify applicant's intent to continue prosecution, the application is subject to abandonment six months after mailing of the last Office action. The agent, attorney or applicant point of contact is responsible for assuring that the Office has their telephone number. Agents and attorneys may verify their registration information including telephone number at the Office's web site, [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov). At the top of the home page, click on Site Index. Then click on Agent & Attorney Roster in the alphabetic list, and search for your registration by your name or number.



Donald L. Champagne  
Examiner  
Art Unit 3622

26 December 2002